

**Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, September 15, 1837, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson.  
Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

**TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.**

Hermitage, September 15, 1837.

*My dear sir,* It is some time since I had the pleasure to receive a letter from you.

I was on a short visit to Nashville, returned last evening, and to day have been laid up with a violent head ache, which has been increased by the information this evening received, that Allen the Editor of the Madisonian, has plaid the Bell game on you, and has been made public printer by a union of some of our pretended friends with the opposition, therefore I suppose I may say that you are really *Bellised*.

On the receipt of the first number of the Madisonian I wrote you to be guarded. I viewed on first sight, as the Trojan horse introduced thro the walls of Troy, that it was filled with traitors within and this result proves it—its object is only in part answered, it is intended to divide the republican ranks and give rule to the opposition thro the influence of the Banks, and aid ultimately in chartering the united states Bank. I have wrote to Mr Van Buren to guard against the treason that is tacked up within the beast or it will Bellise him on the next election. Write me and give a full account of this movement. I told my friends here as soon as I saw Allen a candidate and that he got 22 votes, that it would be another Bell (speaker) business, that the opposition were only waiting to get this 22 fast in the harness when the opposition would unite and elect Allen. remember Bell had only 20 good Jackson votes, but succeeded, and if the prompt proceedings had not taken plaice they would have

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Bellised Col Polk.<sup>1</sup> Write me fully, give my respects to Polk and Grundy and say to them to write me fully on matters and things. . . .

<sup>1</sup> John Bell, of Tennessee, was elected Speaker June 2, 1834, succeeding Andrew Stevenson, who resigned. Ten ballots were taken. On the first Polk, who represented the Van Buren group, had 42 votes, and never more than 97. Bell had 30 on the first and gained slowly until a movement came for a concentration for the defeat of Polk. Bell led on the ninth ballot and was elected on the tenth with 114 votes to 78 for Polk and 20 scattering. The unexpected resignation of Stevenson had found the Jackson men unprepared with a candidate, and they had not been able to unite the groups that sprang up each with a candidate. In the following Congress they held their forces better in hand, with the result that Polk was elected on the first ballot, Dec. 7, 1835, by a vote of 132 against 84 for Bell and 9 scattering.